



**red
eye**

Tuesday
MAY 20, 2014

★ **FREE** ★
A Chicago Tribune
publication

CHICAGO HIT FACTORY



Indie rap label Closed Sessions
opening doors for local talent
pages 16-17

Chance the Rapper
(from left), Show
YouSuck, Freddie
Gibbs, Rockie Fresh
and Curren\$y
REDEYE ILLUSTRATION



New Blackline shaking up commutes **4**

Holy abs, this guy's got 'em **10**



CRAVINGS ON CLARK
*Clark Street between Armitage Avenue and Diversey Parkway
Diversey Parkway between Lakeview Avenue and Orchard Street*
Take a culinary tour of Lincoln Park with sample menu portions and beverage pairings at 19 stops including **The Peasantry** (2723 N. Clark St.), where you can snack on beef short rib rillettes with truffle arugula, and Vanille Patisserie (2108 N. Clark St.), which offers a taste of its signature macarons. 6-9 p.m. \$35. Tickets: visitclarkstreet.com

ANNIVERSARY SPECIALS
Anteprima
5316 N. Clark St. 773-506-9990
This Andersonville spot celebrates its seventh anniversary with \$7 signature dishes including house-made ravioli; grilled octopus with potatoes, red onion, chilis, parsley, lemon and olive oil; and grilled polenta with slow-cooked greens and tomato. Through Saturday. 5:30-10 p.m.



DRINK
'SOUND CITY' SCREENING
City Winery
1200 W. Randolph St. 312-733-9463
Kick back with a half-price wine carafe—original prices range from \$27 for sauvignon blanc to \$42 for reserve pinot noir—and see the documentary by Dave Grohl (Nirvana, Foo Fighters) about the San Fernando Valley recording studio and iconic musicians who made history there, including Fleetwood Mac, Metallica and Nirvana. 8 p.m. \$5.

DO
QUEER COMEDY:
THE NEXT GENERATION
Zanies
1548 N. Wells St. 312-337-4027
Local entertainer Trannika Rex joins founder Adam Guerino to host stand-up sets from Cleveland comedian Dana Austin (Queer Queens of Comedy) and others. 8:30 p.m. \$15. Tickets: chicago.zanies.com

PUNDAMONIUM:
THE PUN SLAM
Double Door
1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160
Sign up at the door to compete in this slam-style contest where 10 clever linguists get two minutes to offer puns onstage from prompts received ahead of time. In the second round, they get an onstage prompt and 30 seconds to brainstorm before two minutes onstage. Four finalists then go head-to-head for a \$50 cash prize. 8 p.m. \$8.



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REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

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BRUTALITY ALLEGED

Lawyer: Video apparently caught police beating handcuffed woman

Chicago Tribune

The Chicago police vice squad burst through the door of the Noble Square neighborhood massage parlor last summer and grappled with the shrieking manager as a security camera rolled.

Footage of the incident released Monday showed that Jianqing Klyzek was on her knees and cuffed behind her back within seconds. As Klyzek continued to scream, an officer standing behind the petite woman slapped her in the

head while another threatened to hit her with a Taser “10 f—ing times.” Then another officer got in her face and began to rant.

“You’re not a f— American,” the officer yelled at Klyzek, according to the



Klyzek

video. “I’ll put you in a UPS box and send you back to wherever the f— you came from!”

The disturbing surveillance footage is at the center of a federal lawsuit filed last week accusing the Chicago Police Department and 10 officers of brutality and a hate crime. Police officers can be seen on the video searching for the surveillance tape, but they were unsuccessful because it was recorded off-site, according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit alleged that police unjustly charged Klyzek with battery for allegedly biting and scratching officers as they tried to subdue her. The case was thrown out by a Cook County judge at a preliminary hearing, but the police then pursued a felony indictment in which one of the officers lied to a Cook County grand jury, according to the suit.

Sally Daly, a spokeswoman for State’s Attorney Anita Alvarez, said prosecutors dropped the felony charge in January after Klyzek’s attorney gave them a copy of the security video. Prosecutors didn’t know of its existence at the time of the grand jury investigation, she said.

Klyzek’s attorney, Torrey Hamilton, told reporters Monday that she believed the officers involved should be fired for treating Klyzek like “she was less than human.”

“I can’t see how they have any business wearing the uniform,” Hamilton said at a news conference at her law offices in the Loop. “She’s 5-foot-2 and weighs 110 pounds.



Surveillance footage from the July 31 raid.



The exterior of Copper Tan & Spa
PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE

She was handcuffed and sitting on the ground and was struck from behind. ... This was not reasonable force.”

Klyzek, who is from China but has been a U.S. citizen since 2011, did not attend the news conference because the incident and

media attention surrounding the lawsuit “has been really scary for her,” Hamilton said.

The raid took place around 7 p.m. last July 31 when officers entered the Copper Tan and Spa in the 1000 block of North Milwaukee Avenue after an undercover officer working as part of a

vice squad was allegedly offered sex for money. As they rushed past the reception desk, Klyzek said she screamed out as one of the officers grabbed her arm because she “thought she was being robbed or attacked,” the suit said.

The footage showed Klyzek being pulled toward a chair in the lobby and pushed down face. Klyzek was dragged onto the floor and handcuffed before she was struck in the head by an officer, identified in the suit as Frank Messina. According to the suit, Officer Gerald DiPasquale then began to scream at her, telling her she was not American and here on “borrowed time.”

Neither DiPasquale nor Messina could be reached for comment Monday.

Klyzek suffered a cut on her forehead as well as scratches on her neck and bruises on her right forearm and thighs, the suit said.

Police spokesman Adam Collins released a statement saying the matter is being investigated by the Independent Police Review Authority and that “the alleged comments, if true, are reprehensible and completely intolerable in our police department.”

Blackline: fancy pants commute with perks



GOING PUBLIC

Tracy Swartz

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@tracyswartz

Kara Kilmer boarded the bus at Belmont Avenue and Sheridan Road in Lakeview and checked her phone as she sat in her leather seat.

To her left, another rider worked on his laptop using the bus' WiFi. There were only a few other commuters, so the Monday morning ride was quiet.

Sixteen minutes later, Kilmer got off at the Aon Center for her marketing job. Kilmer was one of about a dozen Chicagoans Monday who rode Blackline, a new private shuttle from Lakeview to the Loop that boasts air conditioning, WiFi, leather seats and overhead storage space.

"I figured I would try [Blackline] out," said Kilmer, 29, of Lakeview. "Felt like I got to work quicker. We'll see in the long term."

Kilmer said she shaved about 10 minutes off her regular commute on the No. 135-Clarendon/LaSalle Express, which travels between Clarendon and Wilson avenues and Adams Street and Wacker Drive in the mornings.

Blackline debuted two runs Monday, at 7:25 and 8:30 a.m., to compete with the No. 135.

Blackline has more amenities than the CTA, but it is more expensive. The service costs \$22.99 for a five-day pass that can only be used in the morning compared to \$2 for a CTA bus ride or \$2.25 for a CTA train ride. CTA also offers an unlimited seven-day pass for \$28.

In its second morning run, Blackline took about 28 minutes to travel from Belmont and

Sheridan to Monroe and Franklin streets with stops at Randolph Street and Stetson Avenue and Washington and Clark streets.

The CTA is scheduled to take 32 minutes at 8:30 a.m. to travel from Belmont and Sheridan to Adams and Wacker with a stop at Wacker and Columbus Drive. A CTA spokeswoman did not return a request for comment.

Blackline uses shuttles from Chicagoland Limo, a limousine service based in Des Plaines. Blackline founder Joey Hawilo, 29, wouldn't say what he charges to rent the shuttles or how many people have signed up for Blackline.

He said he is working on launching evening Belmont service soon and plans to expand to Clark Street and Wicker Park/Bucktown.

"It's been smooth so far," Hawilo said.

"L" reception

Mark your calendars for meetings this week about proposed CTA projects.

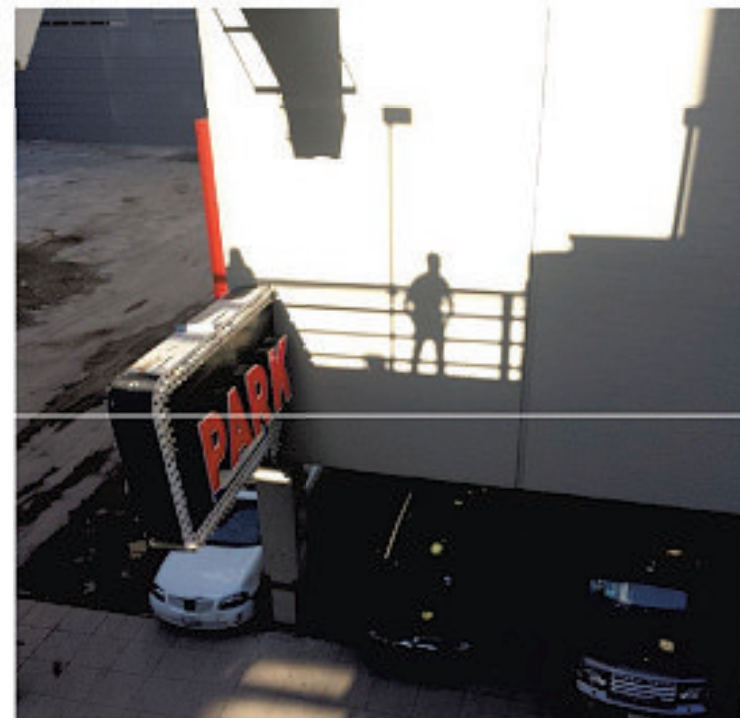
On Tuesday, DePaul is hosting a talk by Chicago bus rapid transit project manager Christopher Ziemann about a plan to bring express bus service to the Loop this year. The talk will be held from 12 to 1 p.m. at the DePaul School of Public Service, 14 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1600. RSVP to trf-chicago@depaul.edu.

On Wednesday, the CTA is holding a hearing about its proposal to overhaul four Red Line stations from Lawrence to Bryn Mawr. The meeting will be held 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson Ave.

On Thursday, the CTA is hosting a hearing about its proposal to create a bypass north of the Belmont stop to ease Red, Purple and Brown line train traffic there. The meeting will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the 19th District Police Department, 850 W. Addison St.

#CTASpotting

What's your daily CTA commute like? Show (and tell) us with the tag #CTASpotting, a new thing we're trying over on Instagram and Twitter. We'll feature the good ones here every Tuesday. (Don't forget to leave a detailed caption/comment with your photo!)



'Shadow man vs. shadow train' —@phoneslinger



'Today has been a productive and beautiful day off!' —@britishbelle

STATIONARY

A weekly dispatch from a CTA station of note
This week: North/Clybourn Red Line
The Lincoln Park stop is really a tale of two stations. The stationhouse above ground gleams with white paint and outdoor seating thanks to a \$4 million refurbishment three years ago from the neighboring Apple store. But the platform underground is a bit grimy—save for the shiny Apple ads. This stop was really the first test of a private company giving significant aid to a CTA station. The agency is open to other public-private station partnerships, but nothing has materialized since then.
Next up: Cicero Green Line



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Deon Patrick
TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/TRIBUNE

Wrongfully convicted man files federal lawsuit

Chicago Tribune

A Chicago man who spent more than two decades behind bars for a double murder before prosecutors dismissed his conviction filed a federal lawsuit Monday that alleges police and prosecutors coerced him into confessing to a crime he did not commit.

Deon Patrick, 42, was serving a sentence of life without parole before he was released from prison in January.

"I can never get back what they've taken from me," Patrick said in an interview following a news conference with his attorneys. "I just want to be able to take care of my family, make sure my kids are OK, make sure their kids are OK. That's what I'm trying to do with this lawsuit."

Patrick was a co-defendant of Daniel Taylor, who was convicted in the same November 1992 double murder even though records showed he was in a North Side police lockup

when the murders occurred. Taylor, Patrick and six co-defendants all confessed.

But the records that showed Taylor was in the lockup ultimately undermined the cases. Taylor was freed last summer after Cook County prosecutors moved to drop his conviction. Patrick's release followed, and both have since obtained certificates of innocence in Cook County Circuit Court. Taylor also has sued over allegations they conspired to cover up evidence of his innocence.

Patrick's lawsuit names as defendants the city of Chicago, Cook County, seven police officers and two assistant state's attorneys.

A city Law Department spokeswoman said officials were reviewing the suit but declined further comment. A spokeswoman for the state's attorney's office also declined comment.

Since his release, Patrick has been getting to know his two children and three grandchildren and adjusting to life outside prison.

EXPRESS LINES

» Bike the Drive organizers are hoping more riders will sign up for Sunday's recreational ride along Lake Shore Drive. The 14,600 people already registered is well below the overall goal, according to the Active Transportation Alliance.

» Chicago-based real estate developer Sterling Bay Cos. has paid \$30.5 million for Harpo Studios' four-building West Side campus, including the studio space at 110 N. Carpenter St. where Oprah Winfrey's talk show was filmed until it ended its run in 2011.

» A \$10,000 reward is being offered for information about the theft of more than a dozen semiautomatic assault rifles from a freight container at a rail yard in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood earlier this month. **TRIBUNE**



TUESDAY
82/62
It's beginning



WEDNESDAY
77/55
To feel a lot



THURSDAY
71/51
Like summer

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U.S. accuses China of cyber spying

A U.S. grand jury has indicted five Chinese individuals with cyber espionage charges for allegedly targeting six American companies and stealing trade secrets, the U.S. Justice Department said, publicly accusing China of cyber spying for the first time.

The hackers targeted U.S. companies in the nuclear power, metals and solar products industries to steal information useful to competitors in China, the department said on Monday.

The companies targeted include Alcoa Inc., United States Steel Corp., Allegheny Technologies Inc., Westinghouse Electric Co. and U.S. subsidiaries of SolarWorld AG, U.S. officials said.

The hackers also targeted United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied-Industrial and Service Workers International Union (USW), officials said.

The hackers targeted U.S. companies in the nuclear power, metals and solar products industries to steal information useful to competitors in China, the department said.

The move "indicates that DOJ has 'smoking

keyboards' and [is] willing to bring the evidence to a court of law and be more transparent," said Frank Cilluffo, head of the Homeland Security Policy Institute at the George Washington University.

American officials long have been concerned about hacking from abroad, especially China. Secret U.S. State Department cables obtained by WikiLeaks traced major systems breaches to China, Reuters reported in 2011. One 2009 cable pinpointed attacks to a specific unit of China's People's Liberation Army.

Such charges, however, are symbolic but the move would prevent the individuals indicted from traveling to the United States or other countries that have an extradition agreement with the United States.

An FBI official last week told Reuters to expect multiple cyber security-related cases, including indictments and arrests, in the coming weeks.

On Sunday, a top Chinese Internet official called for Beijing to tighten its own cyber security, citing "overseas hostile forces."



Bosnia said on Monday that more than a quarter of its 4 million people had been affected by the worst floods to hit the Balkans in living memory. **REUTERS**

Former Times editor speaks publicly

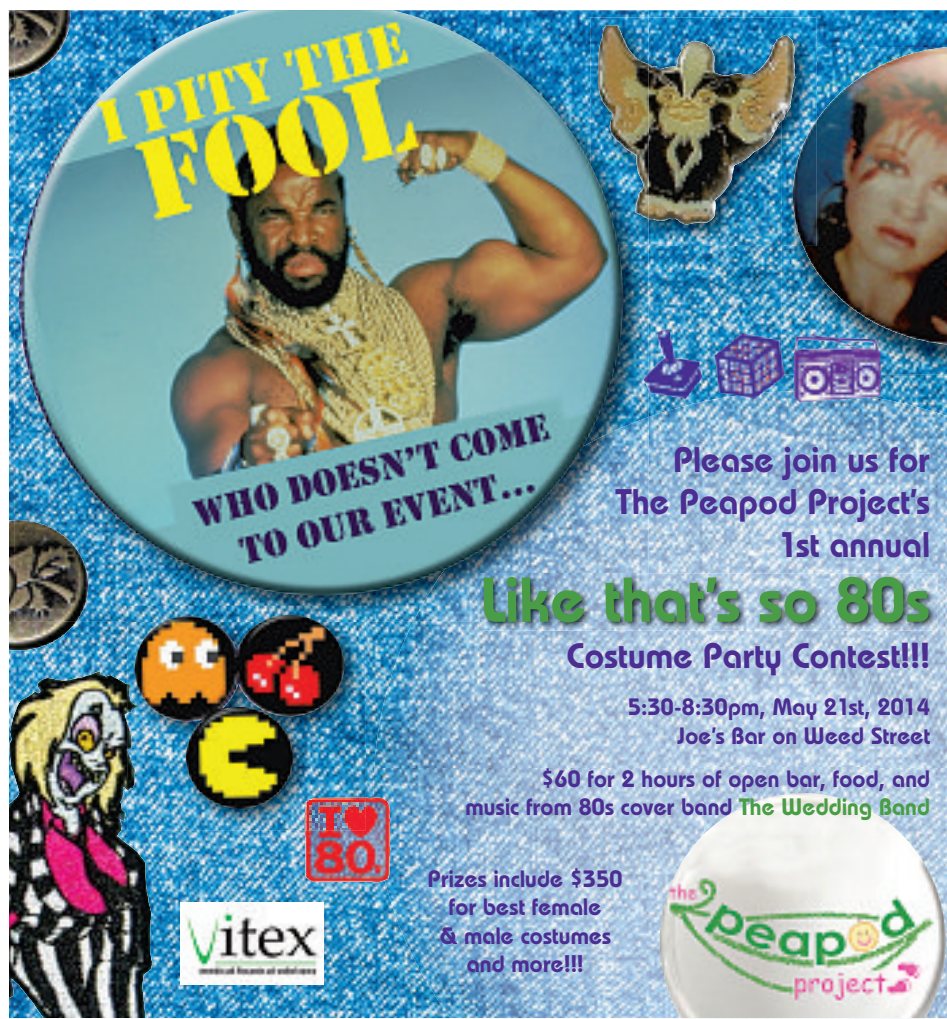
The New York Times' ousted top editor Jill Abramson made her first public remarks Monday, not shying away from the controversy surrounding her departure. "Some of you ... know the sting of losing and not getting something you badly want. When that happens, show them what you are made of," she said in her commencement speech at Wake Forest University.

1.8 million pounds of beef recalled

A Michigan meat processing plant has recalled 1.8 million lbs. of ground beef for possible contamination with the E.coli bacteria, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced Monday. USDA said Wolverine Packing Co. in Detroit is recalling the 1.8 million lbs of ground beef products produced between March 31 and April 18.

Russian troops ordered to pull back from border

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered military forces to return to their permanent bases after drills in three regions bordering Ukraine, the Kremlin said Monday. Putin's office said he issued the order because the spring maneuvers were over. The move could also be intended to ease tension in Russia's standoff with the West over Ukraine before Kiev holds a presidential election Sunday.



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*source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Handbook, 2012

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Evan Shy at the Fox Cities Showdown last month in Wisconsin.

It all abs up

**What's fitter than a six-pack?
Chicago fitness competitor
wants to find out**

By Leonor Vivanco | REDEYE

With one look in the mirror, your eyes zero in on that body part you want to fix.

Everyone has body issues, even Evan Shy. The owner of ShyTown Fitness has a six-pack, but still wants to improve his abs. His other so-called problem areas? His lower back, lats and legs.

"I'm not even close to achieving the physique that I am aspiring to achieve," said Shy, 28, who lives in Streeterville.

What may seem nitpicky to some is the personal trainer's way of gearing up for bodybuilding competitions.

Last month, he entered the physique division of the Fox Cities Showdown in Oshkosh, Wis., as a sort of practice run. It was his first fitness competition.

It paid off. Shy won first place in his physique division as well as the overall title in Wisconsin, qualifying for the National Physique Committee's Junior

National Bodybuilding Championships next month in Rosemont. He is still deciding whether to compete.

"It's more of a fitness model type look," he said of the physique division. "For us, it's not so much about flexing and being the most muscular. It's presenting this confident energy while highlighting certain strong points that you have. I'm not up there doing a double bicep [pose] or anything like that, like a bodybuilder would."

At the Wisconsin competition, he wore board shorts and was evaluated on physical appearance, shape and symmetry.

Competition is in Shy's blood. He played football at Conant High School in Hoffman Estates and his father, Les, played for the Dallas Cowboys and N.Y. Giants.

He had laser focus during his preparation. In between training clients, he worked out, mainly lifting weights at least

“ I have crazy cravings for a variety of things. Right now? Carbohydrates in any form. You give me bread, a sandwich—craving some Jimmy John's right now.”

— Evan Shy, ShyTown Fitness owner, personal trainer and physique model

Hope you like egg whites

Sculpting one's body is not just about lifting weights—though that's a big part of it. Here's what Chicago resident Evan Shy consumed while preparing for a recent competition.

2½

Number of gallons Shy drank per day.

\$1,000

Shy's typical monthly grocery bill during training.

9

Meals per day Shy eats while training. His first meal of six egg whites, a protein shake and one-third cup of oats plus vitamins is at 4:30 a.m. daily. Throughout the day, he consumes 14 ounces of chicken breast, 2 cups of broccoli, 7 ounces of tilapia, 8 ounces of 95 percent lean ground beef, 2 cups of vegetables and more protein shakes. His last daily meal is at 10 p.m. with six more egg whites.



three hours a day and eating 4,000-5,000 calories daily to encourage muscle development.

He followed a low-carb diet and stayed away from pizza and sweets. No fruit. No dairy. No alcohol. Whatever it took, he said.

"I have crazy cravings for a variety of things. Right now? Carbohydrates in any form. You give me bread, a sandwich—craving some Jimmy John's right now," Shy said.

But Shy, like other serious competitors, didn't give in.

"Bodybuilders or anyone competing in these types of competitions are incredibly impressive from a dedication standpoint, a discipline standpoint," he said. "It almost takes a monk's-like focus."

What's the goal for Shy?

"Winning and doing the best I possibly can is always a focus," he said. "But winning, not necessarily in the traditional sense, is present-

ing the best package I possibly can, and more importantly than that and more incrementally is getting better every single day. Fortunately it's easy to measure the physicality of it and see myself continue to change."

His training for the competition fed directly into his fitness business.

It wasn't until he left the construction and development industry a few years ago that he gravitated toward the gym. Once he started working out more, personal trainers recruited him for what he thought would just be a hobby until his next business venture. But he got a good response, grew his clientele and started his own company.

"I truly feel I'm in a situation now where I wake up in the morning, I get to carry on being me, just live my life, and I happen to get paid doing it," Shy said.

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Derek Jeter
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Toughen up and give Jeter his due



Jay St. Pierre

» jst pierre@tribune.com
» @jst pierre

Dear Chicago residents,

Get your asses out to the ballpark this week!

Seriously.

Derek Jeter, one of the greatest shortstops in the history of baseball, is coming to the city.

Good news: He and the Yankees are playing six games against the Cubs and White Sox.

Bad news: This will be the final six chances you get to see him play at Wrigley Field and U.S. Cellular Field.

You don't have to be a die-hard to recognize the significance of Jeter's final visit.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It's your chance to go to the game and, 50 years from now, tell your grandchildren about the time you saw one of the greatest shortstops to ever play.

Which park to go to? That, my friends, depends on what you're looking for.

If you absolutely hate him and the Yankees, go to Wrigley: He may have a career

batting average of .312, but the Conlines have not been friendly to him.

His career batting average at Wrigley is .182. He's never recorded an extra base hit and has zero (count 'em, ZERO) RBIs there.

The Cubs can't stop a nosebleed and seem to consistently hover around 100 losses a year, but at least they can stop Jeter.

Now, if you want some offense, head to the South Side.

Jeter has seven home runs at U.S. Cellular. That's the third-most in his career at any stadium outside the American League East, the Yankees' division.

Combine the fact that they're playing four games against the Sox and his career batting average at the Cell is .291, and you'll likely be able to say you saw Jeter get a hit during his farewell tour.

I could throw a dozen more stats your way to entice you to head to the ballpark, but that's useless. The fact remains that the face of baseball is hanging up his cleats come October.

The weather should be nice(ish), the beer will be cold and the hot dogs will be hot. But if that's not enough, stop for a moment and tip your hat to a Yankee great.

JAY ST. PIERRE IS A REDEYE DESIGNER



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ALL POSITION
PLAYERS

BEST OF THE BEST

A look at how Jeter's offensive numbers compare to all-time Yankees players and all-time among shortstops:

	Jeter	N.Y. Rank*	MLB Rank
Batting Average	.312	7th	5th
Hits	3,353	1st	2nd
Runs	1,887	3rd	2nd
RBIs	1,269	6th	9th
Doubles	529	2nd	4th
Home runs	257	9th	5th

SOURCE: BASEBALL-REFERENCE.COM, MLB.COM

ANGRY?

We understand if Corey Crawford is upset; he doesn't get a lot of respect. Coach Q is tougher to figure out, however.



Scott Bolohan
@scottbolohan
RedEye contributor



Clark Jones
@thecClarkJones
Stand-up comic



Angi Taylor
@angitaylor103.5
103.5 KISS-FM



Katie Gibson
@KtGibson
WGN producer



Aly Bockler
@chicagoaly
Reporter, "You & Me This Morning"

1	How much better can Corey Crawford get?	69 times better.	Conn Smythe award winner ain't a bad goal. #trophies	Can he play with his shirt off?	I am unaware how this is physically possible.	I'm superstitious and you don't want to rattle the mind of a goalie, so in case he's reading: You're pucking killing it dude!
2	How can you tell when Joel Quenneville is upset with his team?	He gives them the silent treatment at the dinner table.	Those nesting bluebirds evacuate his eyebrows.	He even screams at the Ice Crew. How do you get mad at them?!	If you're a good lip reader, you'll know. Also, the elusive crotch grab is a decent indicator.	He calls the boys by their full names in the tone of their mothers' voices.
3	Why are there more days off in this round of the NHL playoffs?	The teams had some sick days left they had to use.	Everyone is catching up on "Love and Hip Hop."	More playoff beard growth. The wins are in the beard.	Simply to drive us nuts.	Buying and changing diapers for this bunch of babies takes time, people!
4	Convince the Minnesota Timberwolves to trade Kevin Love to the Bulls.	Chicago really needs another person from Minnesota.	Keeeee, I can get you all the Harold's Chicken you want; I know a guy.	Send him to us, and we'll find a way to send Kris Humphries home.	(Insert obvious Luvabulls joke.)	Minnesota has the Twin Cities but Chicago's got all the pretties!
5	How will the White Sox cope with Jose Abreu on the disabled list?	Put a scarecrow with a glove at first. Or Paul Konerko if they don't care about offense.	By just going someplace away from the crowds and distractions—U.S. Cellular Field.	Adam Dunn will cover his strikeouts.	Pints of Ben & Jerry's. Lots of cookie dough. Tears.	Tailgating with fans before games to get boozed up enough to forget they suck without him.





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Brandon Marshall (right) and Kyle Long
NUCCIO DINUZZO/TRIBUNE FILE

Next round's on Marshall

Somewhere, Jay Cutler rejoices. The Bears and Cutler's favorite target, Brandon Marshall, agreed to a three-year contract extension Monday that keeps the receiver in Chicago through 2017. Marshall, 30, tweeted that the extension is worth \$30 million; he signed it Monday during an appearance on "The View." In two seasons since joining the Bears, Marshall has 218 receptions, 2,803 receiving yards and 23 TDs.

ICE STORM

What's buzzing in the Hawks' world today

“THE MOUTHWATCH
It was tough to breathe there for a couple minutes. I was just glad that I recovered quick and once I figured out that I'm able to breathe, it was a big relief.”

— Hawks defenseman Niklas Hjalmarsson, on what went through his mind after a puck hit him in the throat in the series against Minnesota



Andrew Shaw
PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE

Shaw not ready?

Hawks forward Andrew Shaw skated with the team Monday, but Coach Quenneville said he still was questionable for Wednesday's Game 2 of the Western Conference finals at the United Center. Shaw's availability will be determined Tuesday, when he is expected to participate in a full practice. TRIBUNE CONTRIBUTED

BEARD MEN

DAY 34

RedEye reps are battling Blackhawks players for beard supremacy throughout the Stanley Cup playoffs. Follow their progress at redychicago.com/sports. Also, you can help raise money for Blackhawks Charities by participating in the team's Beard-a-thon. Visit beardathon.com/blackhawks.



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music



Where stars are born

Homegrown label Closed Sessions puts Chicago rap on its back

Alex Wiley in the Soundscape Studios
HILARY HIGGINS FOR REDEYE

By Ernest Wilkins | REDEYE

What do Chance the Rapper, Rockie Fresh and Vic Mensa have in common, other than being Chicago rappers garnering national attention?

They've all worked with Closed Sessions, meaning that Michael Kolar and Alex Fruchter, the team behind the Humboldt Park-based record label, might be the most important names you've never heard in the Chicago rap scene.

Before you get your "Fire Ernest Wilkins" campaign ready, recognize that almost every important non-"drill" rap release to come from this third wave of Chicago rap (1994-'96, 2006-'07 and 2012-present) was either curated, recorded, mixed or mastered by the Closed Sessions folks. In addition to the aforementioned artists, that also includes collaborations with Lil' Durk, Young Chop, Rhymefest, Tree, Mic Terror and ShowYouSuck.

J.R. Bang, a program director for online radio station **WindyCityUnderground.com** who has witnessed the rise of multiple acts that worked with Closed Sessions, thinks the label's consistency is a blessing for the city's music community.

"The records Closed Sessions has released from [Alex] Wiley, ShowYouSuck and Tree in the last year alone have given the music scene here a bigger push just by having a home record label that is releasing quality music and developing artists," he says. "In order to keep getting better overall, the Chicago music scene needs a Closed Sessions."

With endorsements from industry tastemakers and a staggering output of quality material, it wouldn't be a stretch to paint Closed Sessions as a modern equivalent of the early days of Def Jam Records, whose start included releases by future stars LL Cool J, Beastie Boys and Public Enemy. And they aren't slowing down: The current focus is on Wiley, the buzzworthy 20-year-old Hyde Park native whose "Village Party" tape arrives in early June. Having listened to a decent chunk

House of hits

A timeline of Closed Sessions releases

2008

"Swagger Like Chi," a song that featured Naledge, Marvo, Really Doe, Bump J, Mickey Hallstead & GLC



2009

Current\$, "Rapper Weed" (first official Closed Sessions song)

2010

"Closed Sessions Vol. 1" featuring Tanya Morgan, Kidz In The Hall, Chip Tha Ripper, Skyzoo, Current\$ and others; Rockie Fresh, "Rockie's Modern Life;" GLC, "Love, Life & Loyalty;" YP, "No Sleep"



of the project, including the first two singles "Vibration" and "OVA." I expect this release will catapult the rapper to national awareness.

Closed Sessions has established itself as a hub for local acts to refine their skills and expand their brand in the music community. But, more specifically, how are they doing this?

"[Fruchter] does the hard work. I just sit down here, drink espresso and make rap music," says Uptown-raised Kolar, the technical arm of the Closed Sessions team, at the label's Soundscape Studios.

He's being modest. The 35-year-old whiz works on all things production from recording to mixing to mastering, and is directly responsible for making sure the Closed Sessions releases sound crisp and clean. (Quick lesson: Mixing is when you take all the instruments/beats, combine them with the vocals, add effects and make it sound balanced and appealing. Mastering is when you take the finished mix and maximize it for best listening, including sequencing the songs.)

Having previously worked with acclaimed Chicago groups like punk band Secret Agent Bill and rappers the Molemen (as well as funk legend George Clinton), Kolar met Hyde Park-raised Fruchter in the dressing room for Chicago native Kidz in the Hall rapper Naledge in 2008. Fueled by Fruchter's work as a DJ and head creative for local rap site RubyHornet, the duo teamed up for a project called Digital Freshness that would bring buzz acts like Curren\$y, Mike Posner, Mac Miller, Yelawolf and Action Bronson to Chicago for the first time.

While in town, the artist, for no charge, would record an exclusive track at Kolar's studio. The first of these came in July 2009; shortly afterward, Closed Sessions became its own company. The first official release, "Closed Sessions Vol. 1," arrived in 2010, and two more volumes followed in the next two years.

Now that Closed Sessions is his main priority, Fruchter, 30, works as both A&R and promotion man in addition to teaching at Columbia College Chicago.

"Alex sits at that desk for 10 hours a day and emails every single blog [and record] company



Michael Kolar

to get the word out about our artists," Kolar says. "There's so much music out there, and getting people to connect with it and care is the most valuable service we can offer."

Day-to-day work at a rap label is less 24-hour champagne diet and more number-crunching and paperwork.

"These are the things people don't see," Kolar says. "Getting the songs onto platforms like Spotify and stuff like that. What it means to get songs featured in the iTunes Store, the nuts and bolts boring stuff that needs to get done. Scheduling, this goes here, that goes there. I think one thing that tanks a lot of people is that they don't have the strategy to build excitement and buzz. For example, we made an alternate version of [Mic 'Terror's recent release] 'Fresh Prince of Darkness' with extra verses, different mixes and that kind of stuff."

The question remains: Why would someone choose to sign with an indie label? Both men believe in the power of the long game versus immediate reward.

"We do all the things that a major label does, just on a smaller scale," Fruchter says. "There's only two of us, but that allows us to be nimble, and we can mold what we do to the person we're working with. We get to work fast, but we also get to take the time to



Alex Wiley (from left) and Michael Kolar at Soundscape Studios. HILARY HIGGINS FOR REDEYE

develop these acts. That's something that's sorely missing from music right now. How can you make meaningful music that lasts a long time? Artist development is the work that gets done before the hype ever happens."

Currently, the guys are all-in on making a superstar of Wiley, who's focused and confident in the studio, willing to hear suggestions but always in control of his music. We asked to stage some photos of him at the microphone. He turned it into an impromptu freestyle session using a made-up character. The rhymes are fun and silly, but it's wholly obvious that he can flip the switch and kill it any time he wants. That kind of intensity, combined with an ear for melody, led to Wiley getting looks from magazines like XXL and Complex. One of Chicago's rising stars has no plans to head to the coasts, though.

"I don't think you need to move to do what you want to do

[in the music industry] anymore," Wiley says, reclined on the studio couch. "I went out to L.A. and it was great, but people acted like if you weren't there, you were tweaking. A lot of times, people are out there in the scene and they get lost in the shuffle for two years. Meanwhile, we're here in Chicago getting it done. The whole country and the music listening world isn't a place like L.A. It's like this. These days, the same way you don't really need major labels? You don't need the city that those labels built."

"If you have a strong following, all you need is a WiFi signal."

Both Fruchter and Kolar nod and clap. One makes a mic-drop gesture. The Closed Sessions team is determined to make Chicago a place for music to thrive again. At this rate, they just might do it.

ERWILKINS@TRIBUNE.COM | @ERNESTWILKINS

2011

"Closed Sessions: ATX" featuring Freddie Gibbs, DJ Babu, CurT@INS, Million \$ Mano, Rhymefest, Emilio Rojas, 6th Sense, Scheme and others; BBU, "Fear of A Clear Channel Planet"

2012

"Closed Sessions Vol. 2" featuring Action Bronson, L.E.P. Bogus Boys, Freddie Gibbs, Treated Crew, Raekwon, DJ Babu, Vic Mensa

2013

Tree, "Sunday School 2;" Chance The Rapper, "Acid Rap;" Alex Wiley, "Club Wiley;" Vic Mensa, "INNANETAPE;" ShowYouSuck, "Dude Bro"

2014

Mic Terror, "Fresh Prince of Darkness;" Alex Wiley, "Village Party"
 In addition, acts like Young Chop, Lil' Durk, Lil' Reese and Hollywood Holt have either recorded with Closed Sessions or had the group do post-production for projects.

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ALBUM REVIEW



Xscape
Michael Jackson



By Ernest Wilkins

REDEYE SOUND BOARD
Regardless of the varying quality of the music they contain, posthumously released albums are usually pathetic. Often, a group of music biz execs takes a break from gorging themselves on whatever's left of

Justin Bieber's sweet young soul to squeeze more cash out of beloved icons who are no longer around to complain. Their goal? Rally the artist's fan base by assuming that no one will speak negatively about a legend, especially a dead one.

For Michael Jackson, who died in 2009, this has already happened. The 2010 release "Michael" was a bloated mess, reminding all of us that there's a reason acts leave certain material on the cutting room floor. Like "Michael," the new "Xscape" compiles unused Jackson demos and gives them a modern touch. However, this time Epic Records CEO L.A. Reid (the man who brought us giant artists such as TLC, Usher and Outkast) served as executive producer on the project and handpicked songs after gaining access to four decades of Jackson recordings. I imagine

his goal before the project started was, "Focus on MJ's voice and get the hell out of the way." The finished results are varied, and this isn't saying much, but this is the best attempt I've heard in a long time.

First single "Love Never Felt So Good" makes a great opener to the record, hearkening back to classic MJ tunes like "Rock With You." The Timbaland-bellied "Chicago" and "Loving You" do justice to Jackson's style and suit his vocals well. Yet the title track and "Blue Gangster" are undeniable clunkers, and I still haven't gotten over the inappropriately named "Do You Know Where Your Children Are." You have the opportunity to rename a Michael Jackson song literally ANYTHING else, and that's the choice you make? SERIOUSLY?

"A Place With No Name," Jackson's cover of the 1972 America easy-listening jam "A Horse With No Name," comes with unnecessarily sugary coating from production duo Stargate (Beyonce, Rihanna) while lifting the keyboards from Jackson's "Leave Me Alone." This kills any emotion found in the original song.

Streaming services such as Spotify have posted the original demos of these songs alongside the new works. Not surprisingly, the original versions are much better than what's found on "Xscape," which is neither bad enough to damage Jackson's legacy nor good enough to add much to it.

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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MONDAY'S SOLUTIONS

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ACROSS

- 1 Drinks like Fido
5 Opening; gap
10 Foot's instep
14 Qualified
15 Apple drink
16 Certain
17 Song for two
18 Make amends
19 Juicy fruit
20 Dignified
22 Religious splits
24 Went first
25 External
26 Fall flower
29 Yrbk. section
30 Dishonest folks
34 the line; followed orders
35 Sheep's cry
36 Actor _ Washington
37 Retirement acct.
38 Window covering
40 Eerie saucer, for short
41 Diminish
43 Half and half
44 Get ready, for short
45 Cornered
46 Thirsty
47 In that place
48 Valleys
50 Drink served hot or cold
51 African hunting trips
54 Singer Tony _
58 Sew a sweater
59 Groucho's prop
61 _blue; loyal
62 Doing nothing
63 Actor Jeremy
64 Bullfight shouts
65 Recolors
66 Conical tent
67 State of clutter

DOWN

- 1 Boys
2 Border on
3 Tearful request
4 Moved to a place and put down roots
5 Overcook milk
6 Compassion
7 Turmoil
8 Population count
9 Build
10 Headache remedy
11 Regrets

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- 12 Stuff
13 His and _
21 Suffix for profit or auction
23 Actress Hunt
25 Speakers
26 Leaning
27 More tender to the touch
28 Josh with
29 Jolt
31 Shade of blue
32 to; cite
33 Mountainside
35 Olive Oyl's hairstyle
36 Perish
38 Fragrant wood
39 _ day now; pretty soon
42 Tranquilizes
44 "The _ of the Opera"
46 Want
47 Two and eight
49 Permissible
50 Rudely brief
51 Lose traction on ice
52 Artist Warhol
53 Nail smoother
54 Cause of woe
55 Author _ Stanley Gardner
56 Today; abbr.
57 Actress Harper
60 Repub. party



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GETTY IMAGES

Shakira

Her hips still don't lie—they can't in this fitted, blue sparkly dress with sheer side panels. And she accessorized with her boyfriend, Spanish soccer star Gerard Piqué.



GETTY IMAGES

Chrissy Teigen

John Legend's model wife went for drama with sharp bangs and a strapless, black-and-white Fyodor Golan mini-dress. The embellishments kind of shout "Game of Thrones," no?



GETTY IMAGES

Kelly Rowland

The singer showed that married life suits her just fine in a black bra top and skirt with a thigh-high slit. And all those bangles!



GETTY IMAGES

Jennifer Lopez

Remember that saying about the carpet matching the ... chiffon dress and hot pants? The Icon Award-winner gave a nod to the look that put her on the red-carpet map at the 2000 Grammy Awards.



Ke\$ha

The "Timber" singer went a little nuts with the self-tanner and pink hair, but her black strapless dress with a giant fishtail train was marvelously off-kilter.

Swoosh!

The Billboard Music Awards still plays second fiddle to the Grammys, but that didn't stop some of the stars from stepping out in all their glamorous glory on the red carpet Sunday in Las Vegas. Well, some of them did, anyway. CURT WAGNER, REDEYE

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red hot



Selfies are over—or not

Editors have added 150 new words to Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, including "hotspot," "hashtag," "crowdfunding," "digital divide," "tweep" and "selfie," the Los Angeles

Times reports. Speaking of selfies, Ellen DeGeneres just can't get over them. After the Oscar selfie shared 'round the world, the "Ellen" host has been snapping them on the regular, most recently with guests and "Blender" co-stars Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler. Enough!

Guardians galore

Good news, Marvel fans. A new "Guardians of the Galaxy" trailer, released Monday, answers a bunch of questions. Namely: What Bradley Cooper and Vin Diesel sound like while doing their characters' voices, what Star Lord does to get out of tricky situations, and what Chris Pratt looks like shirtless. (We already know the answer to that one.) Also, where did Glenn Close come from?



Sad actor

After his movie "The Captive" was savaged by critics at the Cannes Film Festival, Ryan Reynolds skipped the cast after party Friday. US Weekly reports, opting instead to spend the night with his wife, Blake Lively. "[It] looked like Blake was trying to cheer him up a few times," a source told US. Poor Ryan.

He's over 'Twilight'

Sorry, Team Edward. Robert Pattinson won't be doing another "Twilight" movie. RPats, who played vampire hottie Edward Cullen in five "Twilight" films, told Variety he is done with the role. "I'm too old," he said Sunday at the Cannes Film Festival.



Hot dudes and beer

The stars aligned in New Orleans over the weekend when Brad Pitt and Matthew McConaughey came face to face, sort of. Pitt tossed a beer from his balcony to McConaughey, who was on a balcony across the street. The throw was caught on video, and the world swooned, because HOT DUDES AND BEER.

GETTY IMAGES



THE QUOTE



Eat something green every day. Do not pick your nose in public. ... When someone who cares about you hugs you, hug them back. If someone doesn't want to play with you, it's OK. Not everybody is going to love us. And last but not least go find your joy. It's what you're going to remember in the end. It's not the worry, it's not the what-ifs. It's the joy that stays with you."

—Sandra Bullock (right), speaking to the nearly 200 graduates of Warren Easton Charter High School Monday. Bullock was a surprise guest at the ceremony. People reports.

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